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## **PHDSC RELEASES TWO REPORTS ON PRIVACY AND SECURITY SOLUTIONS FOR INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGES**

BALTIMORE, MD – May 29, 2009 - The Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) announced today the release of two important reports focusing on privacy and security issues that relate to the implementation of interoperable public health information exchanges. The reports were the result of a systematic, in-depth analysis of the Public Health Scenarios covered by states participating in the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC), and the assessment of variations and analysis of solutions and implementation plans that states prepared and that directly related to, involved or affected public health practice.

The first report, titled "*Assessment of Variations in Privacy and Security Policies, Practices and State Laws Affecting the Interoperability of Public Health Information Exchanges*", provides a summary of the top public health information exchange issues identified by HISPC states that result from variations in privacy and security business practices, policies and state laws. The second report, titled "*Analysis of Solutions and Implementation Plans Addressing Privacy and Security Issues that Affect the Interoperability of Public Health Information Exchanges*" presents alternative approaches offered by states to deal with the most common barriers to public health information exchanges.

"These two new reports from the Consortium bring into the spotlight the privacy and security issues that directly affect public health's ability to exchange health information with providers, payers and others, as we move towards widespread adoption and implementation of health IT, electronic health record systems and health information exchanges" said Walter G. Suarez., MD, MPH, President of the Consortium and a lead author of the reports.

The project was implemented under the direction of the Consortium's Privacy, Security and Data Exchange (PSDE) Committee. "We believe the finding and recommendations presented in these reports will help us address

some of the priority challenges that public health agencies face when implementing health information exchanges” said Vicki Hohner, MBA, Co-Chair of the PSDE Committee.

The reports, along with a description of the project, are available from the Consortium’s website at [www.phdsc.org](http://www.phdsc.org)

The **Public Health Data Standards Consortium** is a national non-profit membership-based organization of federal, state and local health agencies; professional associations; academia; public and private sector organizations; international members; and individuals. The Consortium ***promotes*** the electronic connectivity between public health and clinical care via interoperable Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems (EHR-S) and the integration of health-related data systems to meet the health data needs of public and private organizations, agencies and individuals; ***represents*** public health interests and needs in standards development organizations, data content committees, and standards harmonization and external certification bodies; ***represents*** public health interests and needs on issues of privacy, confidentiality and information security; ***identifies*** priorities for the new national standards for population health; and ***educates*** the public health community about standards and the health information technology community about public health. For more information about the Consortium, go to <http://www.phdsc.org>

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